

## **LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI JOINS STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO REMEMBER ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY**

**FRESNO, CA** - Lt. Gov. John Garamendi today joined California State University, Fresno President John D. Welty, student leaders and faculty at Fresno State marking the first anniversary of the tragic killing of 32 Virginia Tech students and faculty. Below are excerpts from his remarks:

“The one year anniversary of the tragedy at Virginia Tech is a somber reminder that we must do more to protect students on our school campuses, which for millions of young people is their home away from home.

“This unthinkable incident must also be a wake-up call: California must ensure that our students have access to the mental health services they need and deserve.

“California has taken an initial step by allocating \$60 million from the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act to prevent and address mental illness in our students before it is too late, and our University of California and California State University systems have both moved quickly to assess and beef up their support services and response plans. As a UC Regent and a CSU Trustee, I will continue to work closely with our policymakers and administrators to ensure that our campuses are safe and supportive for every college student and to press for additional state funding for campus mental health services.”

While emphasizing prevention of such tragedies, in April 2007, Garamendi called for the creation of an emergency alert system to rapidly respond and save lives in the event of a rare but unfortunate campus emergency. Currently, the State Office of Emergency Services and the CPUC are working together to enable the implementation of an effective cell phone alert system.

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